

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 FEA-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

INSE-00 /091 W

-----022340Z 045154 /75

P 022330Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2530

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 08826

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT AGAIN LINKS SOLUTION OF ILLEGAL-  
ALIEN PROBLEM TO IMPROVEMENT IN MEXICAN TRADE WITH U.S.

1. ACCORDING TO MEXICO CITY PRESS, PRESIDENT LOPEZ  
PORTILLO, IN MAY 31 MEETING WITH U.S. PARTICIPANTS IN  
XVII INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, EMPHASIZED THAT A  
BETTER BALANCE OF TRADE BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE U.S. IS  
THE BEST MEANS OF RESOLVING THE PROBLEM OF MIGRATORY  
MEXICAN WORKERS WHO ILLEGALLY CROSS THE BORDER. TO TRY  
AND SOLVE THE PROBLEM BY POLICE METHODS WOULD BE TO  
CHOOSE THE WORST PATH, HE SAID, BECAUSE THOSE WHO ARE  
PURSUED (BY POLICE) ARE NOT DELINQUENTS BUT RATHER MEN IN  
NEED OF WORK. AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE TRADE SITUATION BE-  
TWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD PROVIDE GREATER EMPLOYMENT IN  
MEXICO, THEREBY ALLEVIATING THE UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS'  
EFFORTS TO FIND JOBS, THE PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED.

2. COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC COMMENT, WHILE CONTAIN-  
ING NOTHING NEW ON ILLEGAL PROBLEM, DEMONSTRATES ONCE  
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AGAIN HIGH LEVEL OF MEXICAN INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE AND  
IMPLIES THE NEED FOR FURTHER JOINT CONSULTATIONS ON SUB-  
STANCE OF U.S. PROPOSALS. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY KNOWS THAT  
ILLEGAL-ALIEN ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED BY WORKING GROUP DURING  
RECENT BILATERAL TALKS IN WASHINGTON, WE ARE CONVINCED  
THAT HIGHEST LEVEL GOM OFFICIALS (E.G., ROEL) ARE NOT  
FULLY AWARE OF CONTENT AND IMPLICATIONS FOR MEXICO OF

PROPOSED ADMINISTRATION PACKAGE.

3. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT IN PLENARY MEETING IN DEPT ON MAY 26, FON SEC ROEL SAID HE DID NOT WANT ANY SURPRISES IN OUR RELATIONS AND EXPECTED TO BE CONSULTED ABOUT U.S. ACTIONS IMPACTING ON MEXICO. IT IS IMPORTANT, IN INTEREST OF CONTINUED SATISFACTORY RELATIONS, FOR USG TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT GOM KNOWS WHAT STEPS U.S. IS CONTEMPLATING BEFORE FINAL DECISIONS ARE TAKEN. THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY (A) SENDING U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO MEXICO CITY FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE GOM OFFICIALS (ALTERNATIVE WE PREFER) OR (B) AUTHORIZING EMBASSY TO ENGAGE IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM DEPARTMENT. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS. THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, ETRD, ECON, MX, US, (LOPEZ PORTILLO, JOSE)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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